

DO NOT

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/J. M./

/A. J. F./

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0024]** In Figure 2, mailing system 22 includes address printer controller 13, address printer 14, postage meter 16, and indicia printer 20, which are substantially similar to the corresponding prior art elements shown in Figure 1. System 22 differs in including data stores 21 and 23 communicating with controller 13 for the purpose of storing characterizing information produced by controller 13. Thus, data store 21 stores a plurality (inventory) of characterizing algorithms, as will be described further below, and data store 23 stores at least a print/scan filter which, when applied to the pristine digital image generates a filtered image which approximates the transformation of the pristine image by the printing and scanning processes. In other embodiments, data store 26 stores one or more defacing filters which simulate blots, smudges, failure of print elements or scanner sensors, or other, similar occasional defects which can not easily be incorporated into said print/scan filter to create one or more defaced images. Together, meter 16, printer 20, form secure postal indicia printing system 22.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0029]** Another algorithm, where the characterizing information comprises measurements of the number of "outliers" in each word (or each line) which make up address A, is shown in Figure 4. (By "outliers" herein is meant ascenders or descenders and portions of capitals that project beyond thresholds, which are preferably